

29. Fall from roof

A **37-year-old** Hispanic roofer fell from a roof while performing work on a new residential garage construction. The garage was designed with a 6/12 pitch roof, plywood decking, ice and water shield, and metal seamed roofing. At the time of the incident, employees were installing plywood decking to the roof. The victim and a co-worker were standing at the top of the roof talking about the project. The victim stated that he was concerned about the employee using a circular saw to cut the plywood because he was working so close to the edge of the steep pitch roof. The victim began walking down the roof toward the co-worker at the edge of the roof, presumably to warn him about working at the edge. The circular saw the co-worker was using created a thin layer of sawdust on the roof surface. As the victim approached the co-worker, he suddenly lost his footing and started to slide. The victim grabbed the tool belt of the co-worker but could not hold on. The co-worker felt the victim release his grip on the tool belt and saw him fall over the edge of the roof. The victim fell 16 feet to the ground and his head made contact with the concrete driveway below. EMS was called and the victim was transported to a local hospital by helicopter, but his injuries were fatal.

Citations as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted of the worksite. Thus, some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality

Citation 1

Item 1a 1926.451(b)(1)(i)	Each platform unit (eg. Scaffold plank, fabricated plank, fabricated deck or fabricated platform) was not installed so that the space between adjacent units and the space between the platform and the uprights is no more than 1 inch wide, except where the employer can demonstrate that a wider space is necessary in that the employees were working on a scaffold system that was not fully planked and decked.
Item 1b 1926.451(g)(4)(i)	Guardrail systems were not installed along all open sides and ends of platforms.
Item 2 1926.501(b)(1)	Each employee on a walking/working surface (horizontal and vertical surface) with an unprotected side or edge which is 5 feet or more above a lower level was not protected from falling by guardrail systems or personal fall arrest systems.

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Area where
the victim
landed

